

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 314 (Sub-No. 5X)

CHICAGO CENTRAL AND PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION—IN COOK COUNTY, ILL.

Decided: September 10, 2012

Chicago Central and Pacific Railroad Company (CCP) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 1.59-mile line of railroad between milepost 11.88 and milepost 13.47, in North Riverside, Cook County, Ill. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on August 10, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 47,918). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on September 11, 2012.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on August 17, 2012. In the EA, OEA states that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) submitted comments stating that the area of the proposed abandonment is not listed under the National Wetland Inventory or Illinois Natural Area Inventory, is not located in a Nature Preserve, and has no record of any threatened or endangered species. However, OEA further notes that the proposed abandonment will result in the closing of two at-grade crossings, including the removal of one at-grade crossing located at Cermack Road (DOT #289825H) and that IDOT has required CCP to patch the affected roadway and return crossing materials for crossing improvement at another location. Accordingly, OEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring CCP to comply with the requirements of IDOT regarding the removal of this crossing should abandonment authority be granted.

No comments were received by the September 3, 2012 due date. Accordingly, the condition recommended by OEA in the EA will be imposed. Based on OEA's recommendation, the proposed abandonment, if implemented as conditioned, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the notice served and published in the Federal Register on August 10, 2012, exempting the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that CPP shall comply with the requirements of the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding the removal of the at-grade crossing located at Cermack Road

(DOT #289825H); CPP shall be responsible for patching the roadway and shall return any salvaged crossing material and automatic warning devices to IDOT as requested.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.